

From: L. Drew Pihera
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 7:08am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

This settlement is a bad idea for a number of reasons. The most prevalent in my mind is the fact that currently, businesses and consumers really have no choice in the matter of what operating system to buy. I am currently at work, where I am a research scientist for the Georgia Institute of Technology's Research Institute. I am not composing this email on a Linux machine, though that would be my preference. In fact I have requested such a machine, but it has been deemed not doable. The reason I am told, is that we must remain compatible with the rest of the world. So by default, because everyone runs Windows, we must. Not because it's the better product, not because it's cost effective, but because they hold the monopoly on desktop systems. I have asked other system administrators why they run Windows, and the reason is some permutation of a need for Windows to remain compatible or a need for Microsoft Office for the same reason. Without a choice, productivity is cut. There are countless times I would have been able to produce work faster if I did not have to deal with Windows, but I did not have a choice. If I want to run Linux at home, I have to buy a second computer because first and foremost, I need to stay compatible with work, and thus must have a Windows machine. The cycle is never ending. I have also had to port code from various other operating systems to Windows as well, most recently in a language called "C" which is supposed to be standardized. This means that I should be able to take the code straight to the Windows machine and use it, as I used nothing but the "plain vanilla C" as we call it (meaning using nothing but the standard functions of the language). There were however multiple changes that needed to be made to the code however in order to get it to work. These were usually just a simple name change for a function call, but this is an illustration of another way Microsoft breaks inter operability to maintain a monopoly and force people down the Windows path.

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